TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN

COMPARATIVE ETHNIC STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF

COLORADO BOULDER

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FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval for University of Colorado Boulder (UCB) to offer a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Comparative Ethnic Studies.

II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

The following is summarized from UCB's proposal:

The Ph.D. degree program in Comparative Ethnic Studies (CES) will focus on interdisciplinary examinations of the intersections of race, class, ethnicity, gender and sexuality in national and transnational contexts. Because Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field, students will necessarily work with faculty across [Arts & Sciences] departments and other Colleges on the Boulder campus. Students working on topics like Public Health may collaborate with faculty on other campuses. The CES doctoral program will draw upon the strengths of existing departments and programs, and will enhance interdisciplinary collaboration across the Boulder campus and beyond.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports UCB's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

(a) ...The Boulder campus of the university of Colorado shall offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. §23-20-101(1), C.R.S.

EVIDENCE OF NEED

CES graduates will be well-positioned for faculty jobs in interdisciplinary fields such as Ethnic Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Latina/Latino Studies, and Native American Studies. A recent scan of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* revealed over 300 positions for which training in CES is required or advantageous. In addition, CES training will

position graduates well for jobs in traditional disciplines. For example, 22% of the American Historical Association's job listings specify CES-related fields; the corresponding figure for the Modern Language Association is 47%. Our peer program at UC Berkeley has exceeded the job placement rate of the rest of their social sciences division by 20%. The availability of CES training will also enhance the marketability of graduate students enrolled in other CU Boulder doctoral programs.

Peer programs in Ethnic Studies and American Studies around the nation accept fewer than 20% of applicants, an indication of the strong demand for the type of training we will provide. As the only Ph.D. program of its kind in the Mountain West, we anticipate strong regional as well as national interest. Although this will be a fulltime program, the dissertation stage may afford some flexibility.

DUPLICATION

No similar programs exist at any CU campus. The Master's program in Ethnic Studies at Colorado State University will complement—rather than compete with—this Ph.D. program.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that UCB's proposed Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approves University of Colorado Boulder's proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Ethnic Studies.

V. <u>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</u>

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Division and are available upon request.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY